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CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Adopted July 11, 1891.



BOSTON:
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.
1891.

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At a meeting of the Society held January 10, 1891, the following Committee was appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws: William H. Spooner, President of the Society, Chairman; I. Gilbert Robbins, Francis H. Appleton, Henry W. Wilson, Leverett M. Chase, John G. Barker, O. B. Hadwen, and Robert Manning.

The Committee presented their report at the Stated Meeting on the 4th of April, and, after a single amendment, it was directed by a majority vote that it be entered on the records and lie over for consideration at the Stated Meeting in July.

At the Stated Meeting, July 11, the revised code was unanimously adopted as here printed.

At the meeting on the 1st of August, it was voted, that the Constitution and By-Laws be printed, and that a copy be sent to every member of the Society.

WILLIAM H. SPOONER, *President.*

ROBERT MANNING, *Secretary.*

Gift
Society
Nov. 15, 1932

B. W. G. 3 Dec. 32

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

SECTION I.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President and four Vice-Presidents, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen in their stead; and a Treasurer, a Superintendent of the Building, a Secretary, and a Librarian, who shall be appointed according to Section XVII; *provided, however*, that no person shall be eligible to any office unless he shall have been a member for the three years preceding.

SECTION II.

PROFESSORS AND MEMBERS OF BOARDS.

A Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology and a Professor of Entomology shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society, who shall, *ex-officiis*, be members of the Library Committee.

The Member of the Board of Control of the State Agricultural Experiment Station shall be elected for three years, and a candidate for this position, and also one for member of the State Board of Agriculture, shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee provided for in Section XI of this Constitution and By-Laws, whenever the term of either of these is about to expire and they shall be elected at the annual meeting, on the first Saturday in October next ensuing.

SECTION III.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

There shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting the following Standing Committees :

An Executive Committee, of	7 members.
A Finance Committee, of	3 "
A Committee on Publication and Discussion, of	3 "
" " for Establishing Prizes, of	2 "
" " on the Library, of	5 "
" " on Gardens, of	3 "
" " on Plants, of	5 "
" " on Flowers, of	5 "
" " on Fruits, of	7 "
" " on Vegetables, of	7 "
" " of Arrangements, of	2 "

SECTION IV.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting for the election of Officers, Professors, Members of Boards, and Standing Committees, shall be held on the first Saturday of October, and they shall enter upon their respective duties on the first Saturday of January ensuing.

SECTION V.

ELECTIONS.

The Secretary shall mail to each member at least ten days prior to each annual election a notice thereof. The notice shall specify the time and place of said election, and the different Officers, Professors, Members of Boards, and Committees, to be voted for; and unless thirty members shall be present at the annual election such election shall be void, and the presiding officer shall adjourn the meeting for the term of three weeks, of which adjournment the like notice shall be given as of the annual meeting, and the election shall then proceed, whatever may be the number of members present.

SECTION VI.

BALLOTING.

The names of all persons to be balloted for at the annual election shall be contained on one ballot, and the offices for which

they are respectively nominated, and the Chairmen of the several Committees, shall be distinctly designated thereon.

In addition to the candidates named by the Committee appointed under Section XI, the ballot shall contain the nominations of all candidates for any office to be filled, made by nomination papers signed by not less than ten members of the Society. Such nomination papers shall be deposited with the Secretary before the third Saturday in September of each year.

In case additions are made to the list of nominations reported by the Committee, the voter shall make a cross (X) opposite to the name of the candidate of his choice in the blank space provided therefor.

The President or presiding officer shall appoint a Committee of three to receive, assort, and count the votes given, and report the number; the polls shall remain open two hours at least; a plurality shall elect, and the President shall declare who are elected.

SECTION VII.

THE STATED MEETINGS.

The stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October. Should a legal holiday occur on any of the aforesaid days, the meeting shall be held on the Saturday next succeeding.

SECTION VIII.

QUORUM.

Twenty members, exclusive of the President or presiding officer, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings except that of the annual election.

SECTION IX.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading the Records of the last meeting.
2. Proposals for membership.
3. Reports of Committees.
4. Deferred and new business.
5. Elections.
6. Reading of communications.

SECTION X.

VACANCIES.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the Society, except those of Treasurer, Superintendent of the Building, Secretary, and Librarian, it shall be filled by a special election, of which the Secretary shall mail a notice to every member not less than ten days before the election; and if vacancies occur in the Standing Committees, they may be filled at any meeting of the Society.

SECTION XI.

THE PRESIDENT.

The duty of the president shall be to preside at all the meetings of the Society; to preserve order; to state the business before the Society; to state and put questions, and, in case of an equal division on any question, to give the casting vote; to call for accounts and reports from all Committees; to call special meetings of the Society, when requested in writing by twelve members, and generally to superintend the execution of such By-Laws and Regulations as the Society shall from time to time enact, which is not otherwise provided for. He shall also report, from time to time, what measures, in his judgment, are necessary for promoting its objects and extending its usefulness. He shall annually, on or before the first Saturday in August, appoint a Committee of seven members, who shall nominate suitable candidates for the various offices of the Society for the ensuing year; and said Committee shall make their report on or before the first Saturday of September, in each year.

SECTION XII.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

In the absence of the President, the senior Vice-President shall exercise all the authority, privileges, and powers of the President; and in case neither the President nor any one of the Vice-Presidents shall be present at any meeting, the Society shall choose a President *pro tempore*, who shall be invested with all the power and authority of the President.

SECTION XIII.

THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Society, and deposit the same in such bank in the city of Boston, as the Finance Committee shall direct, where his account, as Treasurer, shall be kept, and all payments shall be made by checks. He shall attend to the renting of the Building and the collection of the rents and other income of the Society. He shall pay prizes and gratuities upon the written order of the Chairman of the respective Committees; and shall pay no bills until audited by the Secretary. He shall have the care and custody of the seal of the Society and of the dies for the medals; and he shall cause the medals to be struck and certificates of merit to be prepared when required, and shall deliver them as awarded. He shall have in his safe keeping the bonds, deeds, notes, certificates of stock, and other evidences of property; shall make all transfers and investments, with the consent and approval of the Finance Committee; shall pay the taxes, insurance, interest on loans, and other debts, and keep a correct account of the receipts and disbursements of the Society. He shall in January of each year send to every annual member a bill of the amount due from him. For the faithful performance of his duties he shall give bonds, in such sum and with such sureties as shall be approved by the Finance Committee, and he shall in the discharge of these duties be subject to the control of said Committee.

SECTION XIV.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BUILDING.

The Superintendent of the Building shall, under the general direction of the Finance Committee, have charge of the premises and shall see that they are kept clean and in good repair, and that all Rules and Regulations in regard to their care are strictly enforced. He shall carry out the directions of the Committee of Arrangements in regard to the preparation for and conduct of exhibitions, and, under the direction of the same Committee, shall see that all the Rules and Regulations in regard to exhibitions are strictly enforced.

SECTION XV.

THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society; he shall keep copies of the same in a book provided for the purpose, which shall be open to the inspection of the members at any meeting; he shall receive and read all letters and papers addressed to the Society, and shall dispose of them as provided by the By-Laws or directed by the Society. He shall audit all bills and demands against the Society before payment of the same by the Treasurer.

He shall give notice of all stated and special meetings of the Society by mailing a notice thereof to every member, and of adjourned meetings by a notice posted in the Library Room of the Society, and shall regularly record the proceedings thereof in a book to be kept for that purpose.

He shall give notice to each person of his election to office or membership in the Society. He shall record the election of every member, and report his name and residence to the Treasurer. He shall deliver to the Executive Committee a copy of the proceedings of each meeting whenever requested, and shall prepare and countersign all diplomas or certificates of membership.

He shall prepare for each annual election an alphabetical list of the members of the Society.

He shall, under the direction of the Committee on Publication and Discussion, act as Editor of the publications of the Society, prepare them for the press and superintend the printing thereof. He shall make notes, for publication, of meetings for the discussion of horticultural subjects, and shall perform such other literary work as may be directed by the Society, or as may not be otherwise provided for.

In the absence of the Secretary the President shall appoint a Secretary *pro tempore*.

SECTION XVI.

THE LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian shall have the charge of all books, drawings, engravings, herbariums, and other articles appertaining to the Library, and shall attend to the purchase, recording, cataloguing, arranging, binding, delivering, and receiving of books; these duties

to be performed under the direction of the Library Committee. He shall, as far as possible, assist those desiring to use the Library in their investigations.

SECTION XVII.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall be Chairman, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and seven members chosen as provided in Section III. In the absence of the President the Committee shall choose a Chairman *pro tempore* from their own number. They shall consider and report upon all questions of the appropriations of money, and no appropriation shall take effect without their approval. They shall appoint in December of each year, or whenever a vacancy shall occur, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Superintendent of the Building, and a Librarian of the Society, and define their duties except where these are determined by the By-Laws; and they may remove them, or either of them, and appoint others instead, whenever, in their opinion, the interests of the Society shall require it. They shall have free access at all times to the records of the Society, and to the books of the Treasurer, and shall recommend to the Society on or before the first Saturday of November, the amount to be appropriated for prizes and gratuities the ensuing year; and the several committees shall make their requests for the amounts required by them previous to the meeting of this Committee in October of each year. The Committee shall hold regular meetings on such day of each and every month as they may determine, and whenever called together by written notice of the President, and at such meetings four members shall be a quorum, and no appropriation shall be passed except at a duly organized meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall choose a Secretary, who shall keep a record of each meeting.

SECTION XVIII.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee shall have a general supervision of the Building and other property of the Society, and shall approve all transfers and investments before the same are made by the Treasurer. They shall audit the Treasurer's account in time for him to

present the same to the Society on the first Saturday of January. They shall make all settlements with the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, and generally adjust all matters appertaining to the indentures between the Society and that Corporation. They shall also, with the concurrence of the President, determine the number and salaries of all officers of the Society, not provided for by the By-Laws.

SECTION XIX.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Committee on the Library shall have charge of all books, drawings and engravings, and shall, from time to time, procure such works as may be deemed expedient, not exceeding the amount appropriated for the purpose. They shall cause the Library to be opened for the use of members during all business hours, and at such other times as they may deem expedient. They shall report on the first Saturday in December the condition of the Library, and what measures may be necessary to preserve and increase it; and shall adopt and enforce regulations for the Library and Cabinet, which have been approved by the Society. These regulations shall be affixed to every volume, and posted in the Library room.

SECTION XX.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION AND DISCUSSION.

This Committee shall superintend all publications of the Society, and it may engage, with the concurrence of the President, such assistance as may be requisite.

It shall also have the direction and control of discussions, lectures, and essays on horticultural subjects, and it shall be empowered, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to offer prizes for written contributions to horticultural knowledge, to an extent not exceeding the amount which the Society may place at its disposal.

SECTION XXI.

COMMITTEE FOR ESTABLISHING PRIZES.

This Committee shall consist of the Chairmen of the Committees on Plants, Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, and Gardens, and two other

members, who shall be chosen as provided in Section III ; and the Committee elect shall present to the Society on the first Saturday of December, a list of the prizes they recommend to be offered, which, if approved, shall be adopted and published as the List of Prizes for the ensuing year.

The Committee shall use all due caution in the arrangement of the Schedule of Prizes, and as far as possible shall avoid all repetition of prizes and shall extend every inducement for the production, introduction, and exhibition of new and improved varieties of plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

SECTION XXII.

COMMITTEES FOR AWARDING PRIZES AND GRATUITIES.

These Committees shall be the Committees on Fruits, Plants, Flowers, Vegetables, and Gardens. Two members of either of these Committees shall be a quorum, and if two members shall not be in attendance the member present may appoint other members of the Society to fill the vacancy. In case all the members of any Committee are absent a Special Committee shall be appointed by the President. The said Committees, except that on Gardens, shall attend at the Society's Hall, one hour before the same is opened to the public, to examine the specimens exhibited, and award the Prizes or Gratuities ; and shall also attend at such other times and places as may be prescribed by the Society. They shall make rules in regard to the time and manner of exhibiting specimens for prizes, to be approved by the Society. They shall examine all new Plants, Flowers, Fruits, or Vegetables presented at the exhibitions, and report their correct names, descriptions, and merits. They shall make a report of each Exhibition for publication.

The duties of the Committee on Plants shall be to judge of the merits of all plants placed on exhibition. New and rare plants may be placed on exhibition at any time, and if so placed on any other than a regular exhibition day, the Secretary of the Society shall notify the Chairman of said Committee or any member thereof that an exhibit is at the Society's rooms for inspection, and such notes of the plant or plants shall be taken by the Chairman or other member of the Committee as shall give intelligent

information to the Committee of the merits of the same, that a fair and just award may be rendered by the Committee.

The Committee on Plants and Flowers shall jointly select from the members of the Society or otherwise, as they deem best for its interest, a Special Committee of three members, who shall be well-known experts in the cultivation of the Rose, to judge of all the exhibits of Roses presented at the Annual Rose Exhibition; and under no circumstances whatever shall the said Special Committee have access to the Hall until the exhibition is ready for their inspection, and all lists of exhibits handed to the Committee shall be designated by numbers only as indicated in the Schedule of Prizes. The reasonable expenses of said Special Committee shall be paid by the Society.

On the first Saturday of December, the said Committees shall report to the Society the Prizes and Gratuities awarded by them.

No member of any of the Committees for awarding Prizes or Gratuities shall in any case vote respecting an award for which such member may be a competitor, or in which he shall have an interest, but in such case such member or members shall temporarily withdraw from the Committee, and the vacancy shall be supplied by the remaining members; and in case all the members of any committee are competitors for any and the same prize, the award of the same shall be made by a Special Committee appointed for the purpose by the President.

SECTION XXIII.

COMMITTEE ON GARDENS.

The Committee on Gardens shall consist of the Chairmen of the respective Committees on Plants, Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables, and three members to be chosen as provided in Section III.

The Committee shall visit gardens, parks, and grounds, offered for prizes, under such rules as may be prescribed by the Society; and in making their awards they shall have reference to the arrangement and laying out of such gardens, grounds, etc., as in accordance with true principles of beauty and art; to the adaptation of the trees, shrubs, and plants therein to such arrangement, and to the uses to which such are applied, as well as to their keeping and cultivation.

They shall give especial attention to all new trees, shrubs, and

plants, and state as far as possible their uses and adaptability to our climate. This may be done by any member of the Committee, each member's action being approved by the whole Committee before being reported to the Society.

SECTION XXIV.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

The Committee of Arrangements shall consist of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees on Plants, Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, and Gardens, and two other members to be chosen as provided in Section III. They shall have charge of the general arrangements for and direction of all the exhibitions of the Society, and shall see that the Rules and Regulations relating thereto are strictly enforced. They shall have the power to change the time of any exhibition whenever in their judgment it is for the interest of the Society to do so.

SECTION XXV.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

All proposals of Candidates for Life and Subscription Membership, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, who shall examine the same, and report, on the first Saturday of each month, the names of such persons as they recommend for election. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to elect a member. The candidate shall qualify himself for membership within six months of the date when notice is given of his election.

SECTION XXVI.

HONORARY AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

The Society may, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, elect Honorary and Corresponding Members at any stated meeting, to each of whom the Secretary shall transmit a Diploma or Certificate of Election, under the seal of the Society, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary; and such members shall not be entitled to hold office or to vote at any meeting.

SECTION XXVII.

LIFE MEMBERS.

The payment of thirty dollars shall constitute a Life Membership, and exempt the member from all future assessments. And any subscription member, having paid all dues, may become a Life Member by the payment of twenty dollars in addition thereto.

SECTION XXVIII.

FEES AND ASSESSMENTS.

Every subscription member, before he receives his diploma, or exercises the privileges of a member, shall pay the sum of ten dollars as an admission fee, and shall be subject afterwards to an annual assessment of two dollars.

SECTION XXIX.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member of the Society shall be entitled to the following privileges :

1. To be present and vote at all the meetings of the Society.
 2. To have personal access to the Library, and to consult any of the periodicals, books, or plates, or to examine any of the models belonging to the Society, under the rules of the Library Committee.
 3. To have free admission to all the exhibitions of the Society, for himself and his immediate family.
 4. To receive all the publications of the Society, under the rules of the Committee on Publication and Discussion.
 5. To receive a share of any seeds, scions, trees, or plants, that may be distributed.
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SECTION XXX.

WITHDRAWAL OR DISCONTINUANCE OF MEMBERSHIP.

Any member may withdraw from the Society on giving notice to the Treasurer and paying the amount due from him. Any member who shall neglect for the space of two years to pay his annual assessment, after due notice from the Treasurer, shall cease to be a member. The Treasurer shall give notice of such with-

drawals or discontinuances to the Secretary, who shall erase such members' names from the list.

SECTION XXXI.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

If any member shall dishonor the Society, or shall be guilty of any breach of good faith thereto, he may be expelled, two-thirds of the members present voting therefor. But no member shall be expelled unless a written notice of the motion be served by the Secretary upon him personally, or left at his usual place of abode, at least twenty days before it is acted upon.

SECTION XXXII.

FISCAL YEAR.

The Fiscal Year shall commence on the first day of January, and all assessments for the ensuing year shall be due at that time.

SECTION XXXIII.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Appropriations of money may be made on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October, *only*, except that in case of postponement by reason of a legal holiday, as provided in Section VII, they may be made on the Saturday next succeeding.

SECTION XXXIV.

PRIZES AND GRATUITIES.

Prizes or gratuities may be awarded to any person for the exhibition of any Fruits, Plants, Flowers, or Vegetables, either new of their kind, or of uncommon excellence; or for any new and successful method of cultivating any variety of Fruits, Flowers, Plants, Trees, Shrubs, or Vegetables; or for any of the objects recommended by the Standing Committees on Fruits, Plants, Flowers, Vegetables, and Gardens; or for any other object immediately connected with Horticulture; or for the essential advancement of the objects of the Society in any other way. But no gratuity shall be awarded for any object which shall have been entered or exhibited for a prize. No award shall be made for

any unworthy exhibit, and no gratuity given shall be of a larger amount than the lowest prize established for the same exhibit.

SECTION XXXV.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

Whenever any donation or bequest shall be made to the Society for any specific object, it shall be so applied, and the name of the donor and the amount and description of each donation shall be registered in a book kept for the purpose.

The Executive Committee may recommend the award of medals, or other testimonials, to donors or benefactors of the Society, who have advanced its interests or promoted its usefulness.

SECTION XXXVI.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS AND PLANTS.

All donations of seeds and plants shall be delivered to the Chairmen of such Committees as the President may order, for examination and distribution, and the recipients shall be requested from time to time to report their success in the cultivation of the same to the Society.

SECTION XXXVII.

AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October, *only*. They shall be stated in writing, and have two readings at the time of proposal; if a majority of the members present vote in their favor, they shall be entered on the records of the Society, and lie over for consideration at the next quarterly meeting or an adjournment thereof; when, if two-thirds of the members present shall vote in favor of adopting such amendments, they shall become a part of the By-Laws.

SECTION XXXVIII.

VOTING BY PROXY.

Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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